

BEST AVAILABLE

In the claims:

1-81. (Canceled)

82. (New) A printing machine comprising:
a rigid frame;
a first linear motion X axis stage mounted on said frame;
a second linear motion X axis stage mounted on said frame parallel to
said first axis stage, and arranged for operation independently of said
first axis stage;
a printing table assembly movable on each said linear X axis stage;
a linear motion Y axis stage mounted on said frame perpendicular to said
linear X axis stages, above said printing table assemblies; and
an array of inkjet nozzles mounted on said linear Y axis stage for linear
motion perpendicular to said X axis stage.

83. (New) The printing machine of claim 82, wherein each said printing
table assembly comprises a media-holding plate and an openable cover pivotally
coupled to said media-holding plate for holding said media firmly against said plate.

84. (New) The printing machine according to claim 83, wherein said
media-holding plate includes a raised portion, and said cover includes a window of
the same shape and slightly larger than said raised portion.

85. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, wherein at least
one of said linear motion X axis stage and said linear motion Y axis stage is a linear
motor driven stage.

86. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, where at least part
of each said printing table assembly is a vacuum table.

87. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, wherein said
inkjet nozzles include drop-on-demand piezoelectric inkjet nozzles or continuous
piezoelectric inkjet nozzles.

88. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, further comprising a curing unit located above each said printing table assembly and arranged to cure ink on media on said printing table assembly.

89. (New) The printing machine according to claim 88, wherein said curing unit is an infrared system or a hot air blowing unit.

90. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, further comprising an ironing unit located above each said printing table assembly and arranged to iron media on said printing table assembly.

91. (New) The printing machine of claim 82, being configured for digital printing.

92. (New) The printing machine according to claim 82, wherein said printing table assembly is a flattened plate.

93. (New) The printing machine of claim 82, comprising:
a second printing table assembly movable on said linear X axis stage base independently of said first printing table assembly.

94. (New) The printing machine of claim 93, wherein said printing table assembly comprises a media-holding plate and an openable cover pivotally coupled to said media-holding plate for holding said media firmly against said plate.

95. (New) A printing system for printing on a surface comprising:
a printing head controllably mounted for printing onto selected locations of said surface; and
a controllable wetting applicator for wetting said selected locations prior to printing.

96. (New) A printing system for printing on a surface comprising:
at least one printing apparatus comprising at least one ink applicator operative to print an image over at least a part of said surface; and

at least one wetting apparatus comprising at least one liquid applicator operative with said ink applicator to apply a wetting composition over at least a portion of said part of said surface prior to printing, said wetting composition being capable of interfering with the engagement of a liquid ink composition with at least one binding site of said surface.

97. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, further comprising at least one controller operative to control said at least one liquid applicator to apply said wetting composition onto selected parts of said surface.

98. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, and further comprising at least one retractable bath carrying a thinner liquid, said thinner liquid operative to prevent said wetting composition from drying within said liquid applicator, said retractable bath positioned beneath said liquid applicator and operative to be retracted on demand to expose said liquid applicator to apply said wetting composition onto said surface.

99. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, further comprising:
a rigid frame;
a linear motion X-axis mounted on said frame;
at least one table assembly, operative to bear a printable medium, movable on said linear X-axis;

a bridge mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X-axis, above said table assembly;

said at least one liquid applicator mounted on said bridge, said at least one liquid applicator operative to apply a wetting composition onto said printable medium, said wetting composition being capable of interfering with the engagement of a liquid ink composition with at least one binding site of the surface of said printable medium;

a linear motion Y-axis stage mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X-axis stages, above said printing table assembly; and

said at least one ink applicator mounted on said linear Y-axis stage for linear motion perpendicular to said X-axis stage.

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100. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, further comprising:

- a rigid frame;
- a first linear motion X-axis stage mounted on said frame;
- a second linear motion X-axis stage mounted on said frame parallel to said first axis stage, and arranged for operation independently of said first axis stage;
- at least one table assembly, operative to bear a printable medium, movable on each said linear X-axis;
- a bridge mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X-axis, above said table assemblies;
- said at least one liquid applicator mounted on said bridge, over each of said X-axis, said at least one liquid applicator operative to apply a wetting composition onto said printable medium, said wetting composition being capable of interfering with the engagement of a liquid ink composition with at least one binding site of the surface of said printable medium;
- a linear motion Y-axis stage mounted on said frame perpendicular to said linear X-axis stages, above each of said printing table assemblies; and
- said at least one ink applicator mounted on said linear Y-axis stage for linear motion perpendicular to said X-axis stage.

101. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, and wherein said image is a photograph.

102. (New) A printing system according to claim 96, wherein said surface comprises of at least one of fibrous material, porous material, material having a high surface tension with said liquid ink.

103. (New) A pre-printing apparatus for preparing a surface for printing, comprising a controllable wetting applicator for wetting selected locations of said surface prior to printing.

104. (New) A pre-printing apparatus for preparing a surface for printing, comprising at least one wetting apparatus comprising at least one liquid applicator operative to apply a wetting composition over at least a portion of said part of said

surface prior to printing, said wetting composition being capable of interfering with the engagement of a liquid ink composition with at least one binding site of said surface.

105. (New) A method for printing on a surface comprising the steps of:
providing said surface;

wetting selected areas of said surface using a controllable wetting apparatus;
and

printing over at least a part of said wetted area using a controllably mounted digital printing head.

106. (New) A method for printing on a surface comprising:

providing said surface to be printed;

applying a wetting composition over at least a portion of said surface prior to printing using at least one liquid applicator, said wetting composition being capable of interfering with the engagement of a liquid ink composition with at least one binding site of said surface

executing printing an image over at least a part of said wetted surface using at least one ink applicator.

107. (New) A method for printing on a surface according to claim 106, and further comprising: at least one of the steps of:

curing said wetting composition prior to executing said step of printing; and
curing said ink after executing said step of printing.

108. (New) A method for printing on a surface according to claim 106, and further comprising a step of ironing said surface prior to executing said step of wetting said surface.

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